

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PM-03 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 NSC-05 SAM-01 OMB-01 PRS-01 /051 W  
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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER  
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA  
COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD AZORES

S E C R E T LISBON 4422

COMUSFORAZ LAJES FOR GENERAL WIGLEY EYES ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PO  
SUBJ: ARMA REPORT ON COMMENTS ON PORTUGUESE POL/MIL SITUATION  
BY MILITARY COMMANDER OF THE AZORES

SUMMARY: IN CONVERSATION WITH ARMA GENERAL ALTINO DE MAGALHAES, MILITARY COMMANDER OF THE AZORES, MADE A NUMBER OF COMMENTS PERTAINING TO THE POLITICAL/MILITARY SITUATION IN PORTUGAL. THESE INCLUDED HIS OPINIONS OF THE AFM ASSEMBLY, THE PROBABILITY OF ARMED CONFLICT IN PORTUGAL, A SEPARATIST MOVEMENT IN THE NORTH, AN EXAMPLE OF PCP OPERATION AND THE AVAILABILITY OF A NATIONAL LEADER. (ACTIVITY IN THE AZORES REPORTED BY SEPARATE MESSAGE.)

1. GENERAL MAGALHAES IS TOTALLY DISGUSTED WITH THE AFM ASSEMBLY.

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HE FEELS IT IS A TRAITOR TO THE ARMED FORCES, THE PORTUGUESE

PEOPLE AND THE REVOLUTION. HE TERMED IT A "SACO DE RATOS"--  
A "SACK OF RATS."

2. HE SEES ARMED CONFLICT, PROBABLY IN THE FORM OF A LIMITED CIVIL WAR, AS INEVITABLE. HE FEELS THAT THE GOVERNMENT, LABOR UNIONS AND MEDIA ARE SO THOROUGHLY UNDER COMMUNIST CONTROL OR INFLUENCE THAT ONLY VIOLENCE WILL ALTER THE SITUATION-- (AND HE IS NOT, BY NATURE, A VIOLENT MAN).

3. MAGALHAES IS FROM BRAGANCA AND HIS FIVE BROTHERS LIVE IN THE NORTH, FROM PORTO TO BRAGANCA. HE SAYS THERE IS A STRONG SEPARATIST MOVEMENT, WHICH SEEKS AS A MINIMUM, REGIONAL AUTONOMY FOR THE NORTH OF PORTUGAL. THE DECISION OF THE "MOVEMENT" TO ENCOURAGE THE ENTIRE POPULATION TO "RISE UP" AGAINST THE LISBON GOVERNMENT IS NOT FAR OFF. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH PORTUGUESE ARE PROUD OF THEIR NATIONAL HERITAGE, THEY ALSO HAVE STRONG REGIONAL AFFILIATIONS. THE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO ARE FROM THE NORTH ARE NUMEROUS. FOR THEM TO ARRAY THEMSELVES AGAINST THEIR OWN "TERRA" WOULD BE AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT THING TO DO, PSYCHOLOGICALLY.

4. AS AN EXAMPLE OF PCP OPERATION, MAGALHAES OFFERED THE FOLLOWING: THE HUSBAND OF HIS LONG-TIME FAMILY COOK IS A STEVEDORE ON THE DOCKS OF LISBON. THE HUSBAND WAS GIVEN 48 CONTS (AROUND \$1900) BY THE PCP--A PRINCELY SUME TO HIM. PURPOSE: MAKE PICKET SIGNS. HE WAS GIVEN A RECEIPT TO SIGN AND WAS THEN TOLD THAT IF THE FASCISTS EVER RETURNED, HE WOULD GO TO JAIL OR WORSE, BECAUSE THEY WOULD GET THE RECEIPT. THE GENERAL TOLD HIM TO SPEND THE MONEY ON HIMSELF AND NOT TO WORRY ABOUT THE PCP "MACACOS" (MONKEYS). POINT OF ALL THIS: THE PCP HAS MONEY TO BURN. CURRENTLY THE PS, PPD, OR THE AFM FOR THAT MATTER, CAN'T MATCH THEM.

5. IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FOR A LIST OF MEN WHO HAVE ENOUGH STATURE TO LEAD PORTUGAL OUT OF THIS DIFFICULT TIME, MAGALHAES SAID THERE IS ONLY ONE: MARIO SOARES. HE HAS NOT SUPPORTED SOARES IN THE PAST, NOR DOES HE CARE FOR THE SOCIALIST LINE, BUT SOARES IS, IN HIS OPINION, THE ONLY MAN, CIVIL OR MILITARY, WHO STANDS A CHANCE OF RALLYING THE COUNTRY. HE NOTED THAT PORTUGAL NEEDS A SINGLE STRONG LEADER, BECAUSE THAT IS THE SECRET

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ONLY GOVERNMENT THE PEOPLE FEEL COMFORTABLE WITH, GIVEN THEIR HISTORY. COMMENT: ARMA FEELS MAGALHAES IS, HIMSELF, AN OUTSIDE BET AS A NATIONAL LEADER. HE IS ONE OF TWO OFFICERS WHO WERE GENERALS BEFORE THE REVOLUTION. THE OTHER IS COSTA GOMES. MAGALHAES'S REPUTATION IS UNTARNISHED BY THE IDIOCIES OF THE AFM AND THE CURRENT REGIME. HE IS HIGHLY REGARDED WITHIN THE ARMY (HAVING BEEN VOTED BY ALL INFANTRY OFFICERS AS THE MAN THEY WANTED FOR "DIRECTOR OF INFANTRY," WHICH HE

TURNED DOWN) AND HE IS VIRTUALLY LIONIZED BY THE AZOREAN PEOPLE--EVEN THOUGH HE HAS BEEN AS FAIR TO THE PCP AS TO THE PPD ON THE ISLANDS. HIS CLOSE FRIENDSHIP OVER THE YEARS WITH COSTA GOMES AND HIS OUTSTANDING REPUTATION IN ANGOLA MAY HAVE SAVED HIM TO DATE. HIS CURRENT, STRONG SUPPORT OF JUSTICE FOR THE AZORES, AN ANTI-COMMUNIST STANCE (HE REFUSED GOP "THEATRE" GROUPS ACCESS TO THE AZORES BECAUSE THEIR PROGRAM OF "DYNAMIZATION" WAS PRO-COMMUNIST) AND HIS UNWAVERING INTEGRITY MAY SAVE HIM FOR THE FUTURE.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONAL OPINION, POLITICAL STABILITY, POLITICAL SITUATION, MILITARY POLICIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** RowellE0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975LISBON04422  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
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**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** RowellE0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <02 OCT 2003 by RowellE0>  
**Review Markings:**  

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ARMA REPORT ON COMMENTS ON PORTUGUESE POL/MIL SITUATION BY MILITARY COMMANDER OF THE AZORES  
**TAGS:** PINT, PO, (DE MAGALHAES, ALTINO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006